

## PLATE V.—THE CHIPSTEAD ELM.

In the scale of precedence among Forest trees, the Elm, which is indigenous to England, has with respect to beauty and utility, to claim a place next to the Oak in dignity and rank. One virtue, property, as regards the usefulness of its timber, is that of being able to bear the alternations of moisture, without rotting; which renders it more especially fit for all purposes connected with water to the atmosphere. The hardness of its grain is another quality that adds to its value; nor ought it to be forgotten; forming, as it may do, a substitute for hay and fodder, in times of scarcity: the Roman, indeed, frequently fed his cattle on the leaves of the Elm; hence Virgil reckons the redoubt among its excellencies:

*"Fecundæ frondibus Ulmi."*

No tree bears transplanting better than the Elm. It will suffer removal even at twenty years of age, and renders it very desirable for those who may wish to impart to new-built mansions the respectability of shades, of apparently long standing, always confer on a habitation. The Elm, is indeed, peculiarly "the length of colonnade," with which our forefathers loved to make graceful and gradual approaches to hospitable halls. Loving society, yet averse from a crowd, delighting in fresh air, and in roomy roots, and affording its aid to all the weaker plants in its vicinity that may seek its support, it presents an emblem of the class of country gentlemen, whose abodes it is oftenest found to adorn and protect.

The Chipstead Elm stands on a rising ground, in a retired part of the pleasure-garden of George Esq., of Chipstead Place, in Kent. It is sixty feet high; twenty feet in circumference at the base, and fifteen feet eight inches, at three feet and a half from the ground. It contains two hundred and sixty cubic feet of timber; but this bulk is comparatively small to what it would have been had it not sustained the large branches towards the centre. Its venerable trunk is richly mantled with ivy, and its appearance savours enough of antiquity to bear out the tradition annexed to it, that in the time of Henry the First, it held annually under its branches; the high road from Rye, in Sussex, to London, then passing close by it, will that interest, which must be felt for an object by associating it even in the most distant manner, so renowned in history as that of our fifth Henry, be lessened by the reflection, that this fine tree is the present owner a descendant of John Hampden, and one in whom both the patriotic feeling and the magnanimity of that illustrious individual find no unworthy representative.

## PLATE VI.—THE TUTBURY WYCH-ELM.

THE Wych-Elm, or Wych Hazel, as it is sometimes called, from the resemblance that its leaves bear to those of the Hazel, is a species of the Elm, which is valuable rather for the quantity than the quality of it. Since the long bow, for the making of which it was much esteemed in former times, has fallen entirely into disuse, its worth is proportionally lessened. It is, however, a fine spreading tree, and occasionally to a prodigious size. The Tutbury Wych-Elm is one of the most remarkable specimens in the kingdom, and is thus mentioned by Shaw, in his History of Staffordshire:—"In the road from Tutbury to Rolleston is a very large and beautiful Wych-Elm, the bole of which is remarkably high and lofty; having eight noble branches, the size of common trees, which spread their umbrage luxuriantly around, forming a magnificent and graceful feature, both in the near and distant prospect. It is not at present, will, in a few years, be as great a curiosity in the vegetable world, as the famous Elm of Field, described by Doctor Plot."

The trunk of this tree is twelve feet long, and sixteen feet nine inches in circumference, at the base; seven feet higher, it divides into the "eight noble branches," which are not only high and extend between forty and fifty feet from the centre of the tree, which contains six hundred and ninety cubic feet of timber. The interest that so beautiful an object is likely to impart to the spectator it stands is, in the present instance, increased by the pleasing prospect that it commands of Tutbury, which lifts its venerable remains in the distance, and awakens a train of interesting reflections, connected with the remembrance of the virtues of one of its earliest owners, "Time-honored Lancaster," and of the nobleman, which it has been exposed, during the ages that have now left it only the vestige of what it was in feudal greatness.